## **CLAIMS**

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## What is claimed is:

city feeting from the control of the	1	1.	A method, comprising:
	2		coupling a handheld device to a server, the server having a first database
	3	and the	e handheld device having a second database, the handheld device having an
	4	applica	ation that allows a user to access the second database;
	5		determining whether the application needs to be updated;
	6		causing the server to provide to the handheld device an application update if
	7	the app	olication needs to be updated;
	8		causing the handheld device to record transactions performed on the second
	9	databa	se by a user;
The state	10		causing the handheld device to provide to the server transaction information,
		wherei	n the transaction information is related to the recorded transactions;
Thus He	12		causing the server to perform a transaction on the first database based on
	13	the trai	nsaction information;
	14		causing the server to extract data from the first database to be used to
	15	update	the second database; and
	16		causing the server to provide to the handheld device at least a portion of the
	17	extract	ed data.

handheld device in providing the application update.

The method of claim 1, wherein the server provides metadata to the

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein coupling the handheld device to the server
- 2 comprises coupling the handheld device to a companion device that can be coupled
- 3 to the server.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein a synchronization engine is configured to
- 2 cause the server to provide to the handheld device at least one of the application
- 3 update or the extracted data.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the synchronization engine resides in the
- 2 server.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the synchronization engine resides in a
- 2 companion device that is coupled to the server and the handheld device.
- 1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein synchronization engine resides in the
- 2 handheld device.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein a synchronization manager is configured to
- 2 cause the handheld device to provide to the server the transaction information.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the synchronization manager resides in the
- 2 handheld device.
- 1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the synchronization manager resides in a
- 2 companion device that is coupled to the server and the handheld device.

	1	11.	A system, comprising:
	2		means for coupling a handheld device to a server, the server having a first
	3	datab	ase and the handheld device having a second database, the handheld device
	4	having	g an application to allow a user to access the second database;
	5		means for determining whether the application needs to be updated;
	6		means for causing the server to provide to the handheld device an application
	7	update	e if the application needs to be updated;
	8		means for causing the handheld device to record transactions performed on
	9	the se	cond database by a user;
	10		means for causing the handheld device to provide to the server transaction
rill from find that that the from a	11	inform	ation, the transaction information describing at least in part the recorded
The state	12	transa	ctions;
	13		means for causing the server to perform a transaction on the first database
## .	14	as des	scribed in the transaction information;
the same way was gone and the same	15		means for causing the server to extract data from the first database to be
The Man	16	used t	o update the second database; and
W Street Mr.	17		means for causing the server to provide to the handheld device at least a
The standard	18	portion	n of the extracted data.
	1	12.	The system of claim 11, wherein the application update comprises metadata.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the means for coupling the handheld device 2 to the server comprises a companion device connected to the server and the 3 handheld device.

- 1 14. The system of claim 11 further comprising a synchronization engine that
- 2 includes the means for causing the server to provide to the handheld device the
- 3 application update and the means for causing the server to provide to the handheld
- 4 device the extracted data.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the synchronization engine resides in the
- 2 server.
- 1 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the synchronization engine resides in a
- 2 companion device that is coupled to the server and the handheld device.
- 1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein synchronization engine resides in the
- 2 handheld device.
- 1 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the synchronization engine also includes the
- 2 means for causing the server to extract data.
- 1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the synchronization engine also includes the
- 2 means for causing the server to perform a transaction.
- 1 20. The system of claim 11, further comprising a synchronization manager that
- 2 includes the means for causing the handheld device to provide to the server the
- 3 transaction information.
- 1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the synchronization manager resides in the
- 2 handheld device.

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- 1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the synchronization manager resides in a
- 2 companion device that is coupled to the server and the handheld device.
- 1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the synchronization manager also includes
- 2 the means for causing the handheld device to record transactions.
- 1 24. The system of claim 20, wherein synchronization manager also includes the
- 2 means for causing the handheld device to record transactions.

## 25. A system comprising:

- a server having a first database and a synchronization engine, wherein the synchronization engine includes:
- 4 a metadata unit to provide update information for an application,
- 5 a transaction processor to perform a transaction on the first database,
- 6 and
- 7 a data extractor to extract data from the first database; and
  - a handheld device coupled to the server, the handheld device having a second database and a synchronization client, the application to provide a user interface to the second database, wherein the synchronization client includes:
- a metadata importer to receive the update information,
- 12 a transaction recorder to record transaction information of transactions 13 performed on the second database by a user, and
- a data importer to update data stored in the second database based on data extracted from the first database.

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- 1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the handheld device is coupled to the server 2 through a companion device.
- 1 27. The system of claim 25, wherein the handheld device further comprises a 2 transaction database to store transaction information.
- 1 28. A system comprising:
- 2 a server having a main database and a synchronization engine, wherein the 3 synchronization engine includes:
- 4 a metadata unit to provide update information for an application,
- 5 a transaction processor to perform a transaction on the main 6 database, and
  - a data extractor to extract data from the main database; and
  - a companion device couplable to the server, the companion device having a second database and a synchronization client, wherein the synchronization client includes:
- 11 a metadata importer to receive the update information, and
- 12 a data importer to update data stored in the second database based 13 on data extracted from the first database; and
  - a handheld device couplable to the companion device, the application residing in the handheld device to provide a user interface to the local database. wherein the handheld device further includes:
- 17 a local database, and
- 18 a transaction recorder to record transaction information of transactions 19 performed on the local database by a user via the application.

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- 1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the handheld device further comprises a
- 2 transaction database to store transaction information.
- 1 30. The system of claim 28, wherein the handheld device further comprises a
- 2 data storer to store extracted data in the local database.